



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor
John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
A DAY FOR HEARTS:
CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY
February 14, 2004

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects (CHD) exist at birth, are among the most common birth defects, and are the leading cause of defect-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, with familiarity of CHD, more diagnoses are made of what was once thought to be an extremely rare disorder and was not repairable; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 infants are born each year with heart defects in the United States, and many babies and children born with defects continue to die due to the severity of the defect or the defect not being detected in time; and

WHEREAS, numerous professionals are researching CHD (at least 35 defects are now recognized) in order to more accurately describe its origin, physical signs and symptoms, and surgical options; and

WHEREAS, all citizens are encouraged to be more aware of CHD so that early diagnosis and intervention become a top priority; and

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim February 14, 2004, **A DAY FOR HEARTS: CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY** in North Dakota.

/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

Attest:

/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State